

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

VOLUME VII, No. 47

WHEATON, ILLINOIS, FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1941

\$1.00 PER YEAR

What Happens to Soul of an Unregenerate Man Between Death and Resurrection

BY REVEREND CHARLES E. FULLER

(Message broadcast Sunday, March 25, 1941, over Old Fashioned Revival Hour. Stenographically reported.)

Our last message on WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SOUL OF MAN BETWEEN DEATH AND RESURRECTION? has brought in many inquiries and questions. As we go on with this subject, I am sure many of the questions will be answered. At least, I hope so. We learned last Sunday from God's Word, first of all, man is a trinity, that is, he is spirit, soul and body. Second, we learned that our original parents were created in the image of God. Then we also learned that through Adam's disobedience, sin and death entered into this world, that death, spiritually speaking, spiritual death, is separation from God, and the regenerated man, though he still exists, is dead spiritually. We also learned that through Christ, man becomes a new creature, restored to fellowship and companionship with God through One, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then we follow through on this subject WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SOUL OF AN UNREGENERATE MAN BETWEEN DEATH AND RESURRECTION? and we read from John 8:21, and I hope you will take time to turn to that portion with me.

"Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come." Now the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Light, spoke these words and they are absolutely final. That is, if you die in your sin, you cannot go where Jesus is.

And then I want you to turn with me again to the sixteenth chapter of Luke, beginning at the 19th verse. Remember that this wonderful portion of God's Word tells us that there were two places of abode for the souls of men between death and resurrection up to the time of the cross and the resurrection of the Lord from the grave. Now may I say this, that this portion of the Word is not a parable, because in a parable the name of a person is never mentioned, and in this portion of the Word, Luke 16:19, to almost the end of the chapter, we find there were two places where the souls of those who died, that is, those who had physical death, went to await the resurrection. Here it is. Follow me closely. We find there was a place called "Abraham's bosom" or paradise, the place where the souls of all men went, who from Adam down to the cross, had died in the faith, that is, those who believed and accepted God's Word and God's way of approach to them through the Old Testament blood sacrifices. And then, the second place called "Hades" the place of abode of all unbelieving, wicked dead, those who died in their sins and they will remain there until the judgment of the great white throne. Now this place called "Hades" is still in existence this side of the cross. I want you to read carefully Luke 16:19 and the following verses and you will discover these things for yourself, for after all is said and done, you do not need any man to

teach you but go to the Word yourself and the Holy Spirit will teach you.

Now the question naturally arises, how long will the souls of men who have died in their sins continue in the place called "Hades"? Will they dwell there for endless ages, through all eternity? Well, we will take that up at this broadcast next Sunday.

What happens to the soul of an unbeliever between death and resurrection? Now with your Bible turn to the fifth chapter of the gospel of John and we will read three verses, the 25th, the 28th and the 29th verses. More and more I want the Old Fashioned Revival Hour to be turned into a great Bible class across the continent. Let me read it to you, John 5:25, 28, and 29:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you. The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

"And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

Now these are God's words. In these verses we find that there is a time coming when all, both the believing dead and the wicked dead, will be resurrected. And here we read the truth that death does not end all, that men continue to exist after death. Even though their bodies, at the time of death, are placed in the grave, and go back to dust, there is coming a physical resurrection of the body and all the unsaved, with their resurrected bodies, will be raised in their old sin-scarred bodies, and the wicked will stand before God in the coming judgment day.

And Luke sixteen tells us, and I want to nail it right down again, that there is no such thing as soul-sleeping between death and the resurrection. The body sleeps but never the soul. There is no such thing as unconsciousness after death.

I feel led to stop here and give you a point in Biblical interpretation. One of the key verses that those who believe in soul-sleeping use is Ecclesiastes 9:5. I want to read it to you: "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten." And they tell us people sleep between death and the resurrection. Now just hold on a minute, please. In the book of Ecclesiastes, God faithfully records what man thinks "under the sun" regarding future and spiritual things. Now it is the preacher "under the sun." In other words, God faithfully records what man thinks regarding spiritual things but what man thinks is not what God always teaches. Well, man says, "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything." God is faithfully putting down here in the record what natural man without divine revelation thinks regarding future things. But God says in

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THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

WHAT IT PROVES; WHAT IT MEANS TO SAVED AND LOST; AN EASTER SERMON

BY EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

(Preached at Easter Sunrise Service, at Civic Auditorium, Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 13, 1941. Services under auspices of Mel Trotter Rescue Mission, Maranatha Fellowship, and Christian Endeavor Union. About 4,700 present; many, I was told, turned away.)

We have had a blessed program of pageant and music, and now you will want a gospel message before we leave, a message from the Word of God. You have heard read the account of the resurrection as given in Luke and in Mark. I will base what I say on some things in the twenty-eighth chapter of Matthew. The transcendent importance to Christianity of the resurrection cannot be overemphasized. Briefly I mention three evidences of its importance.

First, it was the only sign given by the Saviour to prove His deity. He said in Matthew 12:40:

"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Jesus healed the sick, but did not use that as proof of His deity. He opened blind eyes, He cleansed the leper, He raised the dead, but these were not the evidence that He is the Son of God. Other prophets have done the same. The proof that He is the Saviour is that He died and was buried and arose again the third day.

Second, the resurrection is part of the gospel or good news whereby people are saved. Paul said in First Corinthians 15:3, 4:

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

The resurrection is a part of the gospel. A Christ that died cannot save anybody unless He is also a

Editor's Engagements

For three weeks, the editor has been at home with his family. I turned down four or five revival invitations for this season that I might have time at home to rest, to read, to write, and to be with my beloved family.

The editor has spoken five times in special services with Wheaton College Academy, once at Winfield Community Church, once for the young people of Wheaton Bible Church, once for the Soul Winners' Band of the College Church of Christ, Wheaton, a Sunday morning and Sunday evening with Marquette Manor Baptist Church, Chicago, and Pastor O. E. Odegard, once on the Christian Business Men's noonday broadcast in Chicago and in the Memorial Day service of the Christian Business Men of Chicago, at Cedar Lake, Indiana, where a great crowd packed the tabernacle and where one woman from Indianapolis was happily saved.

How I have enjoyed my family in these days at home! To eat my wife's cooking, to play with my children, join in the family worship at the breakfast table — how

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Christ that is risen and is living today.

Third, the importance of the resurrection is made clear when we see how it was preached by every New Testament preacher nearly every time he arose to speak. Read the book of Acts and see how the apostles constantly witnessed that Christ was risen from the dead.

Proof That He Really Arose

There is overwhelming proof that Jesus arose from the dead. He walked and talked and ate among Christians for forty days, and hundreds of disciples saw Him, heard Him, ate with Him, touched Him. In First Corinthians, chapter fifteen, Paul says, "I saw Him." He said, "Peter saw Him." He said, "All the twelve saw Him." He said, "Above five hundred brethren saw Him at one time, and most of them are alive today. They will tell you they saw Him. He was here forty days among men. He spoke to them, He showed them His hands and His side. He told Thomas to put his finger into the scars in His hands where the nails were, and to put his hand into the hole in His side.

Nothing in all history is as well authenticated and proven as this fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is as certain that Jesus arose as it is that He was born, as that He ever lived. It is as certain that Jesus arose from the dead as that George Washington was the first president of the United States. There were witnesses, many infallible proofs that Jesus arose from the dead, the living Son of God, our Saviour. Blessed be God, that is settled for all who have honestly investigated the evidence.

I want you to notice that even the most skeptical people were convinced. Of all the millions who were saved, the gospel never spread as fast as in those first few years. There were millions saved, and they were saved because they were convinced. "It is true, Jesus arose from the dead," they said. Peter didn't believe it at first, but he had to believe it. Doubting Thomas didn't believe it. He said, "I will not believe until I put my finger into the place where the nails have been, and put my hand into the side of Jesus, then I will believe it. But I will never believe it until then." Well, he did believe it, because he did put his finger into the place where the nails tore Jesus' hands, and he put his hand into the side where the spear went in. He did believe it. Oh, the soldiers themselves believed it, and the public believed it, that Jesus was raised from the dead, that He is alive today.

Wherever the gospel has gone, it has proved itself. It has been a saving gospel. It has made drunkards sober. It has made thieves honest. It has made harlots pure. It has given hope to the hopeless. It has given power to the faint. It has made pure the unholy. I say, it saves multitudes. The gospel has been taken to blackest heathendom and made civilization.

The Comfort of the Resurrection

There are two things I should like to say after that brief introduction about the resurrection. First, there is comfort for Christians. Then we will speak of warn-

ing for sinners. There is a marvelous joy, and my heart sings this morning because the Saviour is risen from the dead. I want you to notice several verses here in the twenty-fourth chapter of Luke. The Scripture says they were much perplexed. And it says they were afraid. They were troubled. The Scripture says some wept, and of some it is said that they doubted, and so on. But when Jesus arose from the dead, all that was taken away. Mary who came to weep and to bring spices, and the women who came to weep at the grave went away with a glad song of rejoicing. They didn't weep. There is joy in this Easter time in the resurrection of the Saviour, I say, and their weeping and their doubting turned into laughter.

When the women came and told Peter and the other disciples that they had gone to the grave and found there that He is risen, that an angel had told them He is risen, the disciples said, I think, "You know how women are. Women are excitable, and they thought they saw Jesus. But we can't believe that." But two men went down on the way to Emmaus, as blue as any two preachers ever were. As they walked along, One walked beside them. They didn't quite know how He came to be there or who He was. He said to them, "What makes you so sad?" They said, "Well, you ought to know. Haven't you been up to Jerusalem?" "Yes, but I would like for you to tell me anyway." They said, "Well, Jesus of Nazareth has been crucified, and He was the one we thought would redeem Israel. But He is dead now,

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Wrapping Books

Hundreds of Subscriptions Coming From All Parts of America. Lovely Cloth Bound, Gold-Jacketed Book, "AND GOD REMEMBERED . . ." Free With One-Year Subscription At \$1.00.

On Memorial Day, May 30, Mrs. Rice and I sat up until midnight, after we returned from the big service at Cedar Lake, where I spoke in the afternoon with the Christian Business Men's rally. We sat up to wrap books, since the office was so far behind. We have four full-time workers, three regular part-time workers who do a set amount each week; and then we must hire extra workers nearly every week to help get out the paper and do special jobs. But all the workers get behind when the orders come in as they have been doing.

And how we do enjoy wrapping this new and beautiful book, "And God Remembered . . ." The printing company was held up somewhat in binding the 10,000 volumes of this first edition, because the manufacturers of the cover cloth did not get it to them on time. So we selected another binding for the first 500 copies, imitation leather, simulating ostrich skin, stamped in gold. But those 500 will be gone even before this week's paper is printed, and we will have other hundreds of books here and going out. Each book is carefully wrapped in corrugated

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The Resurrection of Christ

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and besides, today is the third day. The women did say they thought they had seen an angel this morning and that the tomb is open. But of course He is dead and we have given up hope. We had quit our fishing business and left Galilee to follow Him, but He is dead."

And this One beside them said, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" And He opened their understanding and taught them how Christ must rise, and their hearts just burned within them on the road that day.

They said, "Come and eat supper with us down at Emmaus." And they went into some little inn, and as He blessed the bread, their eyes were opened and they said, "It is Jesus!" And He vanished out of their sight. Then they said, "We have no time to eat, we must go back to Jerusalem and tell the disciples." And they went up to that upper chamber where the broken-hearted disciples were, to tell them, "We saw Him! He is risen from the dead!" But they got back there and found the other disciples had seen Jesus, too. While they were there, Jesus entered and He breathed on them and blessed them.

There is joy for Christians because Jesus arose from the dead. Blessed be God, He arose, and He is alive today. My heart sings! Thank God, I can preach, and I am preaching something worth preaching, because my Saviour is alive! There is comfort in the resurrection of the Saviour.

First of all, the resurrection proves the deity of Christ. This business of preaching the gospel and trying to argue people into believing some facts won't do. God Himself must furnish proof. And He did furnish it — Jesus arose from the dead. They said Jesus was born of a virgin but I wouldn't believe it without proof. I have to believe it now; He came out of the grave. He said, "I and my Father are one," but I couldn't believe it until He arose from the dead. He said back there, "All judgment is given to the Son." The Bible says clearly one day the Saviour will judge all, that He will have a place preëminent above everything in Heaven and on earth. But I could not believe that except that God raised Him from the dead. And He who was the Lamb of God will then become the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Jesus arose! That proves His deity.

Oh, some blessed promises have been given, but we could not believe them without evidence. But now that He arose from the dead He has proved them all! He has proved the Bible is the Word of God. The Bible foretold how He would come and live and what He would say and how He would die, and that He would rise the third day. One of the Psalms tells us: "Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" (Psa. 16:10). That is coming out of the grave again. I tell you, when Jesus arose, thank God, I found my feet on solid rock. And I can read the Bible, and I can say the Saviour believed it and dismissed His Spirit in glad joy in the Word of God and said, "My heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope." It is all true, the Bible is true. It is! The Son of God is going to come back again. We believe it. We must believe it all. Now the Bible is authenticated, the authority of the Word of God is proved because it came to pass like Jesus said it would. It came to pass as every Psalm foretold, as all down through

the ages the prophets told about the Saviour who should not only die but who should live again to be our Saviour. The Bible is true, and that is joy.

Next, there is help for every Christian in facing death. I have looked in so many graves — all the false grass the undertaker puts over it as a carpet, all the muslin lining, all the sweet odor of flowers, all the soft music can't help us. No, death is a horrible thing. It means breaking off, it means separation, it means heart break and loneliness and tears. But blessed be God, every time I look into a grave, I can say, "The Lord Jesus went into the grave and came out again. We saw where He came out, saw it in the tableaux this morning. He is risen from the dead. Thank God! We have confidence now. We can look into the grave now and say, 'He is not dead, but sleepeth.' We weep, we sorrow, but not as those who have no hope. We do not sorrow as if we had no comfort. Blessed be God, we will see our loved ones again."

I stood down in Texas, out close to Gainesville, in a little country cemetery and looked down on a little sandy grave where my mother's body lies buried. It has been nearly forty years, when I was a five year old child, since she told us she was going to meet the Saviour and said we must prepare to meet her. She had my cousin to sing, "How Firm A Foundation." And then my mother said, "I can see Jesus and my baby now," and she closed her eyes and went to sleep. Oh, but when I stood by that grave and looked down, I said, "Mother, it isn't the last. I will see you again!" Every boy needs his mother, and I have needed mine many, many years. I have been homesick for her many, many times, but I will see my mother again. Thank God, Jesus came out of the grave and conquered it, and death is whipped, and there is a joyous ending for people who are Christians.

Somebody had a picture of Mel Trotter down at the office of the City Mission, and on it was this little motto, "Those who love the Lord never meet for the last time." Blessed be God, the grave is conquered, death is whipped, and if you are a Christian, you will meet your loved ones again. Mothers, look forward to folding in your arms again the baby who has gone. Widows, your widow's weeds will be laid aside and your tears will be dried if your husband was a Christian and if you are. Thank God, death is conquered because Jesus arose. Isn't that comfort for Christians?

There is a settling of doubts in the resurrection of the Saviour. If you have doubts, so did doubting Thomas. So you are not alone. Sometimes you are at the place where you do not know whether it is all true or not. So have I been. Well do I remember when I was a young college teacher, when I came suddenly to say, "I have to know. I can't go on any more without knowing. I must find out." And I did. And just as Thomas came and asked to put his finger in the wounds, and Jesus didn't rebuke his unbelief, but said, "Put your finger here and see, and put your hand in my side and be not faithless, but believing." And He said, "Do you have anything here to eat?" And they said, "Lord Jesus, we have here some broiled fish and some honeycomb." And He told them to bring it, and He ate before them. John said, "Our hands have handled Him." Peter said, "This is no cunningly devised fable; we know."

Doubter, today you have a risen Saviour.

I remember a young newspaper man and reporter said, "I do not believe it. I do not believe God answers prayer. I do not believe the Bible is true, and that Christ is the Son of God."

I said, "You will either put up, or shut up. I know how you can find out."

"How?"

"Get down and confess your sins and ask God to forgive you, and ask Christ to prove Himself."

"But I don't think it will work."

"No, Thomas didn't either," I said, "but I tell you, you can find out."

"Well, I will have to do it," he said, "if I keep on talking this way."

"You surely will," I said, "if you

keep on talking around me."

So down on his knees he went, and that young man said, "Oh, God, if there be a God, if the Bible is Your Word, and if You will prove it to me, I will follow it. If Christ is the Saviour, show me, and I will love and trust Him and give Him my heart."

And the first thing I knew, he leaned his head over on my shoulder and began to sob. As he wept he said, "It is true. It is true!" And it is.

Doubts will dissolve. In the resurrected Christ you can find doubts dissolved and assurance and happiness and boldness in your faith.

There is assurance, the secret of joy for a Christian.

More than that, there is forgiveness for the erring. Did you notice what the Saviour said? He said, "Go and tell my disciples, and Peter! Be sure to tell Peter. He cursed the other day, three days ago, and swore and denied that he ever knew me. But he went out in the dark and wept bitterly because he was so surprised at himself." And He said, "Go and tell my disciples, but particularly tell Peter. I want Peter to meet me out by the seaside. I want to give him back all the joy he ever had."

Doubter, backslider, one fallen into sin, this Easter morning won't you say, "Blessed Jesus who loved Peter and sent for him, I will come back the same way and find my joy again like he did." And you can, because there is joy for a Christian in the fact that Jesus arose from the dead.

There is not only forgiveness, but joy for the troubled.

Oh, Mary, Mary, Mary! A sword pierced through your heart as you sat by the cross three days ago, but now, thank God, eyes are dried and you have joy! Now she has exultant singing in her heart. If you are troubled, today won't you look up? You have a living Saviour to comfort your heart!

Not only this, but He said, "Go, and I am with you." I preach today because He said, "I am with you. I am alive forever more." He said, "All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

He said, "All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth, therefore go preach." And I said, "I will do it." He said, "I will go with you." And He is with me this morning. Jesus is here. He stands beside me pricking your hearts today. He said He would be with me.

What the Resurrection of Christ Means To Sinners

And not only that. This blessed risen Saviour brings joy and salvation for sinners. Christ is risen from the dead. He came to save sinners and He ever liveth to make intercession for us. The Scripture says, "He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." And He said, "I have a part in this gospel for every troubled heart, for every sinning soul. Go tell it." He said, "Go tell it to all nations. Preach it to every creature." So this Easter morning I would be untrue to the message, untrue to the Christ of Easter if I didn't tell you that Jesus, the Saviour, wants you. You are in His plan. He died for you. There is forgiveness of sins for you.

Somebody said, "I would like to get forgiveness. But I am so weak, I would fall into sin again."

But the Saviour can make drunkards sober. He can give you power you do not have. He can give victory, grace for daily overcoming. So trust the living Saviour, make Him not only your Saviour, but your partner and Lord. He will do the saving, and He will do the keeping, too. He will begin, and He will finish it. He does it all. So risk it with Him today for He brings good news of salvation for sinners.

Another word — there is one other thing here, too, in the Easter message. Because Jesus arose from the dead we who love Him rejoice. But they didn't all rejoice then. There was an earthquake and the angel came down with his face like lightning, of for fear of him the keepers — that bunch of soldiers who sealed the tomb, who

represented the Roman Empire's might and her authority — those keepers were afraid and became as dead men. The hate and spite of those who killed Him, sealed Him in the tomb, but when Jesus arose from the dead the angel came and rolled back the stone. Those women that day had said, "Who will roll away that rock? It is too heavy for us." The angel did it and it is rolled away today. But those men, the soldiers, fell as dead men. Oh, what ghastly white faces, what trembling hands! Those sinners, those wicked soldiers who killed Him and rejected Him, fainted dead away when they saw the risen Saviour. You know for some it is joy, for some it is judgment. It is judgment for some! You remember these scribes and Pharisees when the soldiers came running and said, "He is risen from the dead! We couldn't keep it shut. He came out of the grave!" The Pharisees said, "We will give you money if you will say you fell asleep and the disciples must have stolen his body away."

"So they took the money and did as they were taught. And that saying is commonly reported among the Jews till this day," says the Scripture.

But I tell you, my friends, He came forth, alive from the dead. He, the Stone that was rejected, has become the chief of the corner. You will meet Him in wrath. If He is rejected in your heart, if you say, "I will have none of Him, He is no Saviour of mine, I am just sort of an onlooker this morning, just a spectator at the empty tomb, He is no Saviour of mine. This is just a passing wonder to me."

If you say, "He isn't a Saviour of mine, He isn't the Fairest of Ten Thousand to me, He isn't my Rose of Sharon, He is not my Lord and my God as He was to doubting Thomas" — if you say that, judgment is waiting for you; There is trouble for you.

Turn to where Paul speaks (over in Acts, chapter 17), to the people at Athens and said, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent; because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained . . ." And now listen — here is the Easter message of it, "Whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." When Jesus came out of the grave — you can put this thing down — the Lord Jesus is on top and from now on He will stay on top. We talk about a crucified Saviour and we think that is the end. It is not. We talk about how He opened not His mouth when they nailed His hands and His feet, and how people spit on Him and He had nothing to say. But He will have a say coming. You say, "Well, they killed Him, and laughed at Him while He died. And then He was buried." But that was not the end. I tell you Jesus has arisen from the dead and is now in Heaven. His name is above every name, and God has ordained Him to be judge, and one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess before Jesus Christ. He is going to reign.

So today I am glad He is my Saviour, not my judge. I am glad He is my Lord and my God. If I could fall at His feet I would today and kiss His feet like Mary Magdalene did. I would fall at His feet like Thomas and say, "My Lord and my God. My doubts are gone." I would, like Peter, came and say, "Lord, Thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee." My friend, if you are here and cannot say that, one day you will come to face the risen Saviour in His scorn and in judgment, and not in mercy.

Today I would trust Him as my Saviour and Lord. Instead of being like those keepers, the police, instead of facing judgment and fear, I would get in the joy of Easter time by saying, "Today, Lord Jesus, be my Saviour, my Lord and my God."

Say Today, "My Lord and My God"

I wonder if today every doubter can't say, "I am going to ask Him to dissolve my doubts. Lord Jesus, prove Yourself to me. Convince my heart, let doubt give way today and I will say, 'My Lord and my God who is risen from the dead, my

Saviour.'" I wonder how many can say that? If you have not already taken Him as your own personal Saviour, I hope you will do it now. Thousands of people are gathered this glad day, this holy day, this triumphant day, this day of the living Saviour, this day of praises, this day of new garments, this glad day, I hope this whole congregation will say, "Today I stand to say, 'He is my Lord and my God,' which means I love Him, I trust Him, I commit my soul to Him, I depend on Him to forgive me. I depend on Him to be my Saviour. I depend on Him to keep me from Hell and give me everlasting life." Wouldn't it be blessed if we could stand altogether and say, "I do love Him. I trust Him and claim Him. I give Him my heart that it may be convinced and

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SAVIOUR

A missionary, after long search for the word "Saviour" in the unwritten language of one of Africa's tribes, tells how, in listening to a native tell how another was attacked by a lion and saved, found the word he sought. At once using the word, applying it to Christ, the black man's face lighted up with understanding as he said, "Master, I understand now! This is what you have been trying to tell us all these moons. Yesu died to save us from sin and from the hands of Satan." The missionary is quoted in *Pentecostal Evangel* as saying: "I have dwelt four years practically alone in Africa; I have been thirty times stricken with fever, three times attacked by lions, and several times by rhinoceroses; I have been ambushed by the natives; for fourteen months I never saw a piece of bread, and have eaten everything from ants to rhinoceroses; but I would gladly go through the whole thing again if I could have the joy of again bringing the word 'Saviour' and flashing it into the darkness that envelops another tribe in Central Africa."

— Alliance Weekly

Editor's Engagements

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good it has been. The Scripture says, "He setteth the solitary in families" (Psa. 68:6). What a great blessing it is for solitary souls to be assembled in families!

In these days I have read many books. So little time I usually have for reading, when I preach from one to four times a day, and when each week copy must be prepared for *The Sword of the Lord*. My own life has been enriched greatly by my reading in these days at home. And the study will bring fruit in sermons and articles for *The Sword of the Lord* in the future, God willing.

Next Sunday, June 8, I begin a three weeks' tent revival, God willing, with the Underdominational Young People's Fellowship of Racine, Wisconsin. Big plans are being made, and we trust many will be saved.

June 29 to July 27, four weeks and an extra Sunday, I am to be in Freeport, Illinois, in a big union meeting at the invitation of some churches and under the direct sponsorship of the Freeport Bible Conference Association, made up of representatives of a number of churches. An auditorium seating over 1,000 has already been leased, and we expect four weeks of great blessings, with, we trust, hundreds of souls saved.

Between Sundays, July 28 to August 3, I am to be with Pastor George A. Palmer and the Morning Cheer Broadcast, in radio services and tent revival in Philadelphia.

August 3 to 24, twenty-two days, I am to be in a tent revival at Princeton, Illinois, under the official auspices of a big men's Bible class.

In the last two tent meetings named, Rev. Raymond McAfee, of Chester, Pennsylvania, will lead the singing and be my helper. He is just finishing his junior year in Wheaton College, has a fine baritone voice, has been baritone soloist for Wheaton College Glee Club for two years, and is a devout, earnest soul winner, as well as an enthusiastic and successful song leader, specially attractive to young people.

We covet the prayers of all of our friends for these revival efforts, that many may be saved.

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

Entered as second-class matter, April 26, 1940, at the post office at Wheaton, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1897.

EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

THE SWORD OF THE LORD
Published Weekly at 512 West
Franklin Street, Wheaton, Illinois

Subscription Price: \$1.00 a year;
3 years, \$2.00
Canada and Foreign Countries:
\$1.25 a year; 3 years, \$3.00.

The Resurrection of Christ

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

my heart overwhelmed with love. I will take Him. I will claim Him as my Saviour. I am glad to say it again, aren't you, preacher?

Say it again, Christian, sinner, say it: "My Lord and my God." My dear people from many churches and cities about, can't you say it again, "My Lord and my God," and mean it from your hearts? I hope you can. Please do not say it unless you mean: "Lord Jesus, I count you my own Saviour. I am not just trying to live right, but I trust You who died for me, who paid for my sins, and who ever lives to make intercession for me." Can you say, "I will risk Him, I will trust Him, I will claim Him. He is my Saviour. I will go away with the joy bells really ringing in my heart today?"

Maybe somebody who never said it will say, "I have gone to church, I have read the Bible but I don't know that anything really has happened to me, but I will let it happen this Easter morning."

Wouldn't it be great to say as you go home today, "The first thing on this Easter morning, before I had breakfast," if you could say, "I opened my heart wide and Jesus came in. I have Him today, not just a doctrine, not just a church or creed, not just a statement, but I have Him in my heart today, for I opened my heart and He came in."

Receive Him today. Make it sure today. You say I am doubting, fearing. I know. So were all the disciples when Jesus arose from the dead. Why don't you open your heart and say, "Lord, come in and prove your reality to me. I am willing to have it proven." And He will.

Why don't you say, "Today, I will."

For my part I say like Thomas, "My Lord and my God," like Mary who couldn't speak because she was so sad, like Peter who failed and cursed and swore and denied but who said, "But I love you, Lord," I would say it today. This whole crowd, can you do it and mean it? I believe you can. I hope nobody will love sin so much and so rebel

against Christ until you refuse to do it.

What I would like for us to do, I would like for everybody to stand and to say, with all our hearts, "My Lord and my God." Can't you say it? Preacher, say it first.

Rev. Keithley: "My Lord and my God."

Oh, yes. (To audience) Can you say it? I wonder if you can say it and say it from your heart and mean it today: "I trust Him as my own Saviour. This means I believe He forgives me. I believe He will take me safe to Heaven. I believe He gives me everlasting life. This means I depend on His blood to pay for sin, His mercy to forgive it all. I depend on Him as my own Saviour, the Lord of my life." If you can say that, will this great congregation say it together, "My Lord and my God"? Now if you will say it with all your heart, let's stand together. We are going to go in a moment. Before we go, will you say it together with all your heart now? Let's say it and mean it. A full surrender it means a whole-hearted trust. Now let's say it together.

Congregation: "My Lord and my God."

(Editor's note: We believe many may have trusted Christ that Easter morning, out of the multitude from more or less formal churches, who seemed to say from their hearts together: "My Lord and my God." One day we will know, when we see Jesus, what were the results in the hearts of hundreds who had never definitely claimed Christ before, as they stood and with rapt faces, repeated these words of Thomas, knowing that it was intended to mean a public and whole-hearted acceptance of Christ as personal Saviour and Lord.)

Write for illustrated book catalogue and list of Editor John R. Rice's books.

What Happens To The Soul

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Luke sixteen that the soul has memory and has feeling and has eyesight, and there is no such thing as sleeping between death and the resurrection.

Now a verse in the third chapter of Genesis says, "Ye shall not surely die." Who spoke those words? The devil spoke those words. Be careful who is speaking. God faithfully records the words that were spoken, but not all words spoken are God's true words. For I can prove from the Bible that there is no God. Psalm 14:1 says, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Do you see what I am driving at? Be careful who is speaking.

And so the wicked dead some day are going to stand before the judgment of the great white throne for "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

Well, naturally the question arises, when will this judgment of the wicked dead begin? And the answer is this: it will be after the Lord comes back to the earth the second time and after the Lord's reign of one thousand years of peace here on this earth. For the authority let's turn to Revelation the twentieth chapter and the balance of the message of the evening will be based upon that marvelous twentieth chapter of Revelation. Here it is. At the beginning of the millennial age Satan will be bound a thousand years. I am going to read it to you:

"I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years."

Some day soon the church is going to be caught up, raptured, to meet Christ in the air and then the Lord Jesus Christ is going to rule upon the throne of His father, David, and the nations of earth will learn war no more! When He comes back in power and great glory with the saints at that time, the dragon, that old serpent, the devil, Satan, will be bound a thousand years and he will be cast into the bottomless pit and shut up and a seal will be set upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled. And I don't understand, and we will not understand it until we meet the Lord Jesus face to face, why he must be loosed, that is, Satan will be loosed after a thousand years for a little season. Now let us begin at verse 7 of the same chapter, chapter 20:

"When the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

"And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

"And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

Do you realize there is no such thing as annihilation? Death does not end all because the devil, after a thousand years, is going to be cast into the lake of fire, where the beast and the false prophet were cast before, a thousand years before.

Oh, Christian friends, here will you pray as never before as I lead up to the subject of the judgment of the great white throne? God grant that not one soul who hears me across the mountains and rivers and seas and oceans will ever stand before the judgment of the great white throne! Here it is. Begin with verse 11:

"I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

"And I saw the dead . . ."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR)

Wrapping Books

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

fiber board and then in paper, and should reach the happy reader in the best possible condition.

How rich it looks, in that expensive gold paper jacket, printed in brown ink on the gold, picturing Noah's ark on the wide expanse of water when God remembered Noah and stopped the flood! Mrs. John Curtis of Chicago, on seeing this lovely book at Cedar Lake on Memorial Day, exclaimed, "Why, it is so much prettier than the description led me to believe!" You can hardly believe it is as nice a book as it really is. You do not see how we can give such a beautiful and expensive a volume away free with *The Sword of the Lord*. Well, we could do it because we printed 10,000 copies at once, because as an author I am willing to do without my royalty, and because we want thousands of new subscriptions to *The Sword of the Lord*.

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Where could you spend a dollar that would do more good than in sending *The Sword of the Lord* to a preacher, or some Christian worker, or to some young Christian who needs Christian literature?

Blessings Are Coming!

We have a lovely sermon by Dr. H. A. Ironside on "INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS." It was preached in Moody Church, in Chicago, after the great Gipsy Smith Revival recently. In this sermon he tells young Christians how to be happy and successful in the Christian life. We will be glad to print it, and you may look for it soon.

Tonight Miss Lola Mae Bradshaw is to take another of Dr. Ironside's evangelistic messages, and it will be prepared for *The Sword of the Lord* as soon as a stenographer can write it out, and Dr. Ironside can get time to correct and okay it.

We have a blessed, earnest gospel message by Dr. Joe Henry Hankins, of Little Rock, Arkansas, on "Giving," which will bless your heart. It is to be published soon, God willing.

The editor has a sermon preached to the young people of Wheaton College Academy on "What Happens to the Children of Good Christian Parents." We believe it is an earnest warning greatly needed in Christian homes. It was taken down stenographically and will be printed in *The Sword of the Lord*.

On Memorial Day the editor's sermon broadcast over WJJD, Chicago, on "By A Soldier's Grave," was taken down stenographically. It is a call to fervent, Christian patriotism, a Bible message that we think many will enjoy, and it is to be printed in *The Sword of the Lord*.

Another fine sermon by Evangelist Charles E. Fuller of The Old Fashioned Revival Hour, heard by millions each Sunday night, will soon be ready for *The Sword of the Lord*. You will not want to miss it.

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P. S. We believe there will be no further delay in the sending of the books. We are mailing them out just as fast as we can.

THE GOOD OLD SALOON DAYS

Personally I have seen so much of the evils of the liquor traffic in the last four years, so much of its economic waste, so much of its physical ruin, so much of its mental blight, so much of its tears and heartaches, that I have come to regard the business as one that must be held and controlled by strong and effective laws. I bear no malice towards those engaged in the business, but I hate the traffic, I hate its every phase.

I hate it for its arrogance, I hate it for its hypocrisy. I hate it for its cant and craft and false pretense. I hate it for its commercialism. I hate it for its greed and avarice. I hate it for its sordid love of gain at any price. I hate it for its domination in politics. I hate it for its corrupting influence in civic affairs. I hate it for its incessant effort to debase the suffrage of the country; for the cowardly it makes of public men. I hate it for its utter disregard of law, I hate it for its ruthless trampling of solemn compacts of state constitutions.

I hate it for the load it straps to labor's back, for the palsied hands it gives to toil, for its wounds to genius, for the tragedies of its "might-have-beens." I hate it for the human wrecks it has caused. I hate it for the almshouses it peoples, for the prisons it fills, for the insanity it begets, for the countless graves in potter's fields.

I hate it for the mental ruin it imposes upon its victims, for its spiritual blight, for its moral degradation. I hate it for the crimes it has committed. I hate it for the homes it has destroyed. I hate it for the hearts it has broken. I hate it for the malice it has planted in the hearts of men—for its poison, for its bitterness, for the Dead Sea fruit with which it starves their souls.

I hate it for the grief it causes womanhood—the scalding tears, the hopes deferred, the strangled aspirations, its burden of want and care. I hate it for its heartless cruelty to the aged, the infirm, and the helpless, for the shadow it throws upon the lives of children, for the monstrous injustice to blameless little ones.

I hate it as virtue hates vice, as truth hates error, as righteousness hates sin, as justice hates wrong, as liberty hates tyranny, as freedom hates oppression. — Ex-Governor J. Frank Hanley of Indiana (in 1909), in *Religious Telescope*.

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What Happens To The Soul of An Unregenerate Man

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE)

Now I am going to stop here and explain it. Notice in verse 6 of this twentieth chapter of Revelation:

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

I will not enlarge upon it now, but I will next Sunday, God willing. I simply want to say this: that all who are saved, all who have had the witness of the Spirit in their hearts, all who have come by the way of the cross and through the shed blood — all who are saved and all who will yet be saved until Jesus comes, will be the only ones who will have part in the first resurrection, and that first resurrection takes place at least one thousand years before the resurrection and judgment of the wicked dead. Verse 5 says:

"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection."

Now the 12th verse says:

"And I saw the dead (naturally the wicked dead), small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

All who have died outside of Jesus Christ and their bodies already gone to dust, will one day be reunited with those sin-scarred bodies and all will stand before God. Oh, the solemn teaching in these verses! Dear friends, it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. You can't side-step it. You hope you are going to get to Heaven by your good works, by your morality, by your good deeds — let me just check your way and lead you from that sandy foundation. Let me tell you, there is only one way of approach and that is through Jesus Christ, for there is no other way, no other foundation. Notice:

"I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God."

Here we have the details of this judgment. First of all, the great white throne. When the sin-scarred sinner stands before the judgment of the great white throne in all of the brilliance of the light of the eternal God — I want you to see every sin will stand out in bold relief. There will be such a contrast when the wicked dead stand before God. There will be no pleading, no excuses. Every mouth will be stopped and the Judge on that throne will be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. From the fifth chapter of John we read that the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son. He is coming in great wrath according to the nineteenth chapter of Revelation. I believe there is so much looseness of living today because we have let down upon the judgment preaching of the Old Book, and I purpose by God's grace to check you back and bring you up to the point where God says, "Prepare to meet thy God."

Now what are the bases of judgment? First of all, in the 12th verse we read, "And the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life." Now notice carefully. The dead shall be judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And there at the judgment of the great white throne, another book is

in existence and that is the book of life. So any man who comes up before the judgment of the great white throne can look in that book and see if his name is recorded there. Oh, listen to me, this is the supreme court of the universe, and according to the seventh chapter of Matthew — I want you to read these words because they are very fitting in this. Here it is. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:21-23).

And there before the judgment of the great white throne, with the book of life there to show everyone who has died outside of Jesus Christ, that his name is not written there, will be judged according to the works he has accomplished and all the ungodly deeds will be written down in the books, and I want to tell you, there are going to be degrees of judgment in that day, too, as well as degrees of reward, for all who have died in Christ likewise there will be degrees of judgment for those who have died outside of Christ.

There will be no time for ex-

cuses. I want to say to you, as you look back over your life and if by chance you should stand before this judgment of the great white throne, excuses will be of no avail.

Perhaps your memory will go back to some revival meeting or some radio broadcast where Jesus Christ was presented to you as the only way of escape and you turned your back upon the gospel and trampled the shed blood under your feet — listen to me, it will be too late then. Oh, God has provided a way of escape, the way home to Himself through Christ. If man rejects Christ and dies in his sins, there is no alternative then. Death is final, complete, never ending.

Now notice the 13th verse and following:

"And the sea gave up the dead that were in it; and death and Hades (that is, the place of abode of those who have died from Adam down to the judgment of the great white throne) delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."

"And death and hell were cast in to the lake of fire. This is the second death."

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

These are not my words. These

are God's words. And, oh, as I turn to the 21st and 22nd chapters of Revelation I see the contrast.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth," and it goes on to describe it, how God Himself shall be their God and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, that is, those who are in the new heaven and the new earth. What a contrast! And then in the 8th verse, just by way of reminding, He said, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death." Listen. There is no middle ground. If you have not trusted Jesus Christ, you will be with the sinful, the unbelieving, the abominable, and murderers, and sorcerers and all liars in the lake of fire forever and forever.

Listen to me. There will be no such thing as an ending of the eternal judgment. If there is a place of eternal blessedness for those who have gone by the way of the cross, there will be also a place of eternal judgment for those who reject Jesus Christ.

Now I am going to close with this. It is said, "Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts as in the provocation." If you reject Christ and die in your sin and depart to the place called

Hades, you will be in that second resurrection and will stand before the judgment of the great white throne. You will be judged according to the deeds down in the body and cast in the lake of fire.

Today is the day of grace. God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. He is saying, "Come now, and let us reason together: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1:18). He is saying, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt." "Why will ye die?" Flee to the city of refuge through the one and only door, Jesus Christ.

Come inside tonight and be saved and be secure in the blood of Christ for time and eternity. Will you come tonight?

Let's bow our heads in prayer.

PRAYER: Our gracious Heavenly Father, may the Holy Spirit convict men tonight and may they see Christ paying the penalty for them upon the cross of Calvary. Oh, Father, help them to flee to Thee tonight and, Lord, impute righteousness to their account, through Christ. For Jesus' sake and in His name. Amen.

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